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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/731,430

12/10/2003

Theodore A. Paxton

081468-0304548

5133

909 7590 01/03/2007
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP
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EXAMINER

MATHEWS, ALAN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2851

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

01/03/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/731,430	Applicant(s) PAXTON ET AL.	
	Examiner Alan A. Mathews	Art Unit 2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoyama et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,099,598). Yokoyama et al. discloses in figures 21 and 42 and column 50, lines 35-67, and column 51, lines 1-67, discloses a lithography apparatus 801a that includes an exposure apparatus and an exposure controller 802a. The track apparatus and the wafer handling apparatus include elements 308 and 309 (see figure 21). The track apparatus interconnects processing modules 303-n to 307-n. Element 805 along with memory 806 can be considered a cluster controller. Column 50, lines 62-67, states:

The control computers 802a to 802e are connected to a computer 805 for managing the general managing data base for the whole system by means of communication lines 807a and 807b. The computer 805 is connected to a memory 806 containing the general managing data base by means of a communication line 807.

Art Unit: 2851

Column 56, lines 53-56, further states:

In either of the first and second fabricating methods, the computer for managing the general managing data base manages the process progress of the whole fabricating system.

Thus, computer 805 in combination with memory 806 manages the process progress of the whole fabricating system. It is noted that Applicant repeatedly uses the expression “at least one of” throughout the claims. A reference only needs to disclose one of the elements after the expression “at least one of” to read on the claim. Tables 10, 11, and 12 disclose processing times in the processing modules and transportation times between processing modules. With respect to claim 3, column 28, lines 40 and 41 and column 52, lines 46-53, disclose processing chamber 307-3 which performs baking. In addition, column 53, lines 10-20, disclose monitoring (measuring) parameters. Column 54 and figure 42 disclose memory 804a to 804e which include storing metrology information. With respect to claim 5, column 53, lines 15 and 16, disclose measuring film thickness. With respect to claims 8 and 11, column 41, lines 61-63, disclose placing the different elements in a housing. As a further note, column 2, lines 46-50, disclose using a centralized control computer to control all aspects of the fabricating system.

With respect to Applicant’s arguments, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. As seen in figure 42, all the computers and memories are in **communication** with each other in one way or another through communication lines 807a through 807f. It is not seen why the wafer handling

Art Unit: 2851

controller is not in communication with the exposure controller and the track controller through computer 805 and 806. The term "communication" is a broad term.

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

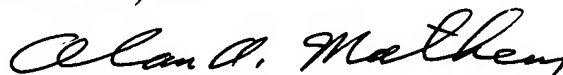
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan A. Mathews whose telephone number is (571) 272-2123. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diane Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2399. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2851

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Alan A. Mathews
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2851

AM